



## Samuel and Peter Shaheen for the Rehabilitation of the Temple Theatre-Elf Khurafeh Complex, Saginaw

The Temple Theatre/Elf Khurafeh Complex, located in the East Saginaw Historic Business District underwent an extensive rehabilitation by the father and son team of Samuel and Peter Shaheen. Built in 1927 by the Elf Khurafeh Shriners, the building consists of theater space and an attached clubhouse. The building was designed to allow the theater and clubhouse to function as independent spaces but included ways to accommodate the Shriners' use of the theater for major ceremonial and gala functions. The Shaheens reinvented this 67,695 square-foot vacant theater and events complex as a major community resource and downtown destination for the residents of Saginaw.

The key elements of the rehabilitation included the careful cleaning and faithful restoration of the theater's elaborate interior decorative design, while accommodating the needs of a modern multi-function theater. The entire theater dome was cleaned, and damaged areas were repaired and repainted by the skilled artisans of Conrad Schmitt. In other areas where the original paint scheme had been lost under years of over-painting the project team skillfully recreated the elaborate original appearance. The design team, including Wigen, Tincknell, Meyer & Associates and GlasTender, replaced a concession area added during the 1950s with a secondary concession area designed to complement the newly rehabilitated historic interior. Other project elements included the expansion of lobby functions and afterglow spaces, providing much needed reception and banquet space.

The Temple Theatre/Elf Khurafeh Complex Rehabilitation represents approximately \$5 million in private investment. The Shaheens took advantage of the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credits and completed the highest quality rehabilitation possible. The project brings new life to downtown Saginaw and demonstrates the unique opportunities the city offers.



# Historic Preservation in Michigan